This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 14, 2004. Claims 125, 128-130, 132, 133, and 137-140 are presented for examination, of which Claims 137-140 are in independent form. Claims 137-140 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly, and Claim 128 has been amended correct a matter of form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 125, 128, 129, 130, 132, 133, and 137-140 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

The claims have been carefully reviewed and amended as deemed necessary to ensure that they conform fully to the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph, with special attention to the points raised at pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. Specifically, Claims 128 and 137-140 have been amended to delete the terms found objectionable by the Examiner. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 125, 128-130, 132, 133, and 137-140 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,398,311 ("Seto"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,897,638 ("Kokunishi") and U.S. Patent No. 5,562,350 ("Sakurai"). Applicant submits that independent Claims 137-140, together with the claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 137 recites, *inter alia*, an acquisition unit configured to acquire x and y vector data corresponding to outline point coordinate values and a weight value. At least one

outline point has x and y vector data that changes in accordance with a weight value change of the character, where the character size remains the same. A calculation unit is configured to convert the coordinate values based on the x and y vector data acquired by the acquisition unit, wherein an x-coordinate value of the coordinate values does not change if the x vector data were not acquired, and a y-coordinate value of the coordinate values does not change if the y vector data were not acquired.

Seto relates to a character processing apparatus that has character data as coordinate point array on contour lines and converts and outputs the character data as dot information. In Seto, the movement of an outline point is achieved by changing x-coordinate value in the x direction and y-coordinate value in the y direction, so as to provide a uniform line width. However, as acknowledged in the Office Action, Seto does not teach or suggest an acquiring unit, nor does Seto teach or suggest vector data that change in accordance with weight value. Accordingly, Seto does not teach or suggest acquiring a weight value and x and y vector data corresponding to outline point coordinate values and converting the coordinate values based on the acquired x and y vector data, wherein an x-coordinate value of the coordinate values does not change if the x vector data were not acquired, and a y-coordinate value of the coordinate values does not change if the y vector data were not acquired, as recited in Claim 137.

Kokunishi relates to reducing or enlarging skeleton data based on a scaling factor and stroke thickness data. In Kokunishi, control points are moved by using movement information of the points with respect to the different weights. However, Kokunishi does not

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remedy the shortcomings of Seto with respect to the features of Claim 137, assuming such a combination of references would even be permissible.

Sakurai relates to an output apparatus that changes a vector character font in accordance with the font size. However, Sakurai does not remedy the shortcomings of Seto and Kokunishi with respect to the features of Claim 137, assuming such a combination of references would even be permissible.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 137 is patentable over the cited art, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claims 138-140 include features similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 137. Therefore, those claims also are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the present Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this

Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the

Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by

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Respectfully submitted,

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